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 ACTION AF-01 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO LOG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09
G-00	/018W					

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R 011547Z SEP 94
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0003
 INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
 AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 001502

E.O.: 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PREL, RW, US
 SUBJECT: RWANDAN AUTHORITIES RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION

1. RWANDAN AUTHORITIES RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL
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 DELEGATION FROM WASHINGTON MONDAY AUGUST 29 WITH
 UNUSUAL WARMTH AND OPENNESS. MEETING SEPARATELY
 WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT,
 THE DELEGATION WAS ACCORDED LENGTHY INTERVIEWS AND
 COMRADELY PHOTO SESSIONS. THE DIALOGUE REPEATEDLY
 COVERED SIMILAR THEMES: REFUGEES MUST RETURN HOME,
 RWANDA NEEDS HELP FROM ALL SOURCES IN REBUILDING THE
 COUNTRY, A JUDICIAL SYSTEM MUST BE QUICKLY PUT IN PLACE
 TO DEAL WITH GENOCIDE AND CRIMINALITY, DEMOCRACY AND
 RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS WERE KEYS TO RWANDA'S
 FUTURE.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/GIS
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 SEP 2015
 DATE/CASE ID: 08 DEC 2011 201005065

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2. THE DELEGATION WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PRIME MINISTER TWAGIRAMUNGU'S RECENTLY REFURBISHED OFFICES. MAJOR DAMAGE HAD BEEN REPAIRED BUT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COUNSELED AGAINST TAKING DELEGATES INTO THE GARDEN FOR PICTURES BECAUSE OF MINE HAZARD. THE PRIME MINISTER QUICKLY DETAILED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES: GET BACK OUR POPULATION, REBUILD ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, TRANSCEND HISTORIC ANIMOSITIES AND INculcate DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND HEALTH CARE. BELIEVING THAT RWANDA'S ABOUT USING ELDERS IN RECONCILIATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MANY ELDERS HAD BEEN COOPTED BY ETHNIC MANIPULATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME BUT, AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL, ELDERS COULD HELP BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER; WHAT RWANDA REALLY NEEDED WAS A CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC DISINTOXICATION. HELP IN EDUCATION SHOULD COME AT TWO LEVELS: IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, AUDIO VISUAL PROGRAMS USING TV CLIPS MIGHT HELP CHILDREN DEAL WITH THE HORROR OF

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GENOOIDE; AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL, RWANDA NEEDED SCHOLARSHIPS IN TECHNICAL AREAS, ESPECIALLY MANAGEMENT. HE NOTED THAT JUDICIAL PROCEDURES IN RWANDA MUST HONOR PLEDGES MADE IN THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD, ORGANIZING PROCEDURES THAT ARE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONALLY.

4. THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE KAGAME TOLD THE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION THAT RECENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS VERY USEFUL AND BADLY NEEDED. RWANDA'S PROBLEMS WERE NOT OVER YET; PEOPLE OUTSIDE MUST RETURN, THOSE RETURNING MUST FIND HOMES FOOD, AND BASIC SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED THE MEANS TO BRING CRIMINAL ACTS UNDER CONTROL, PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENOCIDE AND ASURE JUSTICE.

5. OPENING UP TO EXTENDED QUESTIONING, THE VICE-PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF ACCOUNTABILITY WAS NOT DEPENDENT ON NUMBERS BUT ON THE EXERCISE OF JUSTICE AND THE ELIMINATION OF IMPUNITY WHICH COVERED ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE PAST. HE SAW THE EFFORT TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO JUDGE CRIMES OF GENOCIDE AS WELCOME BUT COMPLEMENTARY TO RWANDA'S OWN EFFORTS. NO ONE IN RWANDAN LEADERSHIP DISPUTED THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS, HE NOTED, BUT ELECTIONS HAD TO BE MEANINGFUL, CLEARLY BEARING ON

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THE CONTEXT OF RWANDA'S SITUATION: THE UNCLASSIFIED ITS
POPULATION, THE PRIORITY OF HEALING SOCIAL WOUNDS.
ETHNICITY IN RWANDA HAD BEEN USED TO OBSCURE OTHER
POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND SERVED AS A PRETEXT FOR
MISMANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT. THE OBJECTIVES OF
GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE VALUED IN TERMS OF WHETHER THEY
SERVED SOCIETY. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WHOEVER WANTS TO
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BE IN RWANDA, BOTH RWANDANS AND FOREIGNERS, FEEL FREE
TO LIVE THERE IN A SECURE ENVIRONMENT.

6. POPULATION GROWTH OF OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT
THE VICE PRESIDENT NOTED IN RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THA
ISSUE. HE FELT THAT POPULATION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE
INCORPORATED INTO OVERALL STRATEGIES OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES.
THE VICE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CASES
WHERE THE GENERAL POPULATION OR INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS HAD
TAKEN RETRIBUTION INTO THEIR OWN HANDS; THE GOVERNMENT
WAS ARRESTING THESE PERSONS AND TRYING TO PUT AN END TO
SUCH ACTIVITIES. THE DIFFERENCE WAS THAT THIS GOVERNMENT
STOOD FOR JUSTICE WHEREAS THE PREVIOUS REGIME HAD
INSTITUTIONALIZED VIOLENCE.

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7. PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU HELD THE DELEGATION INTO TWILIGHT

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HOURS IN AN LENGTHY DISCOURSE AND CONVERSATION ON
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RWANDA'S SITUATION. POVERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BEEN
THE KEY PROBLEMS IN RWANDA EVEN BEFORE THE WAR OF 1990
OR THE RECENT GENOCIDE, HE SAID. HISTORICALLY, RWANDA
HAD BEEN IN THE ORBIT OF NEITHER THE COMMONWEALTH OR
FRANOOPHONE COMMUNITIES BUT ALWAYS UNDER INTERNATIONAL
TUTELAGE. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD, HOWEVER,
AN IMPROPER PERSPECTIVE ON THE ETHNIC ISSUE AND
CONSEQUENTLY DID NOT CONFRONT IT IN A TIMELY WAY. THE
GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES WERE RETURN OF RECENT REFUGEES,
RECONSTRUCTION ESPECIALLY TAKING CARE OF RETURNING
REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, ESTABLISHING

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A DETERMINATION TO OPERATE THE GOVERNMENT IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT WAY WAS DEMONSTRATED BY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UN, WITH NGO'S AND WITH NEIGHBORS. ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO THE PRESIDENT ANSWERED, "ASSURE THAT EVERYBODY ENJOYS HIS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS."

8. WHEN QUERIED ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS, THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED HIS EFFORTS TO GET HIS COLLEAGUES IN TANZANIA AND ZAIRE TO TREAT REFUGEES AS REFUGEES NOT GOVERNMENTS IN EXILE. BIZIMUNGU SAID THAT HIS VIEWS ON BURUNDI COINCIDED WITH THOSE OF BURUNDI'S INTERIM PRESIDENT WHO SAW THAT THERE WERE EXTREMISTS AS WELL AS LEGITIMATE FEARS AND GRIEVANCES ON BOTH POLITICAL SIDES IN THAT COUNTRY. BURUNDI AUTHORITIES MUST FIND A WAY TO CATER TO LEGITIMATE CONCERNs AND FIND A MEANS TO ASSURE FOLLOW-UP ON REASSURANCES. AS A PARTING THOUGHT, THE PRESIDENT ARGUED THAT INTIMIDATION, MURDER AND GENOCIDE WERE CONTINUING IN REFUGEE CAMPS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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SHOULD CONDEMN AND EXTERMINATE GENOCIDE WHEREVER IT IS PRACTICED. RAWSON

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